

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:290

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016

National Food Security Act

K. Shri Parasuraman;Kher Smt. Kirron

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Food Security Act, 2013 targets nutrition security and if so, the details thereof including the intended benefits;
- (b) whether any mechanism has been put in place to monitor the quality of food provided through National Food Security Act, 2013 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds/assistance sought by the States and provided by the Government for implementation of NFSA, State/UT-wise along with the steps taken/proposed to ensure that the NFSA is fully implemented all over the country and the time by which this goal is envisaged to be achieved; and
- (d) whether the Government has made any analysis of the progress made in PDS after implementation of NFSA, and if so, the details of difficulties and hurdles that still exist in the implementation of NFSA in several States and the response of the Government thereto including remedial action taken/proposed in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 290 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.12.2016 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a): National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach. In addition to the legal entitlement to two-thirds of the population of the country to receive highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Act contains provisions for nutritional support to pregnant women and lactating mothers and children upto fourteen years of age, through meal, free of charge, as per specified nutritional standards. The Act also provides for maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6000/- to pregnant women and lactating mothers. The specific provisions for nutritional support under NFSA target pregnant women & lactating mothers and children upto fourteen years of age, which are very crucial groups for improving the overall nutritional status.

(b): Mechanism adopted for ensuring quality of foodgrains and meals is at Annexure – I.

(c): The National Food Security Act is being implemented in all the States/Union Territories(UTs). The Act provides for central assistance to States/UTs in meeting the expenditure incurred on intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains and margin paid to fair price shop dealers. State-wise details of fund released during 2015-16 and 2016-17 is at Annexure – II. Also, Rs. 31.48 lakh and Rs. 21.43 lakh have been released to Government of Bihar and Odisha respectively as part of one time financial assistance for non-building assets of the State Food Commission.

(d) : For bringing efficiency and transparency, the Government is implementing a scheme of End-to-End Computerization of TPDS operations, under which financial and technical assistance is provided to States/UTs. Progress in TPDS Computerization is reviewed/monitored with States/UTs at various level and advisories are issued, wherever required.

ANNEXURE – I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 290 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.12.2016 IN LOK SABHA

A. Foodgrains under TPDS :

To ensure supply of good quality of foodgrains under TPDS and other welfare schemes, instructions are issued from time to time to State Governments and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to follow the prescribed procedure to issue the foodgrains to State Governments from FCI godowns, which are summarized as follows:

- i. Only good quality of foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes.
- ii. Ample opportunities are to be provided to the officials of the State Government/ Union Territories (UTs) Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from FCI godowns. States/UTs may ensure that officers not below the rank of Inspector are deputed for inspection of the foodgrains before their lifting from FCI godowns.
- iii. The samples from the stocks to be issued to States/UTs under TPDS and other welfare schemes are to be drawn jointly and sealed by the officers of the State Governments and FCI for displaying them at the counter of Fair Price Shop (FPS) for the benefit of consumers. A duplicate sealed sample is to be kept with concerned FCI depots/ godowns for any future reference. In case the State agencies are taking delivery from FCI and thereafter delivering the same to the FPS dealers, they should also follow the same procedure as is being followed by FCI for issuing the jointly sealed samples.
- iv. Type sealed samples should be displayed by the FPS dealers in their shops, so that the ration card holders/consumers may check the quality of foodgrains supplied to them. FPS dealers should also maintain a complaint register to enable the consumers to lodge their complaints/ opinions, in case the quality of foodgrains issued is not proper quality standards.

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v. It is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration to ensure that during transportation and storage at difference stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications. For this purpose, all required measures are to be taken for scientific storage of foodgrains so that there is no deterioration in their quality at any stage till they are delivered to the ration card holders/ consumer.

vi. Where decentralized procurement is in operation, State Government should follow the same procedure of inspection of foodgrains stocks and joint sealed sampling to ensure that the quality of foodgrains issue under TPDS and other welfare schemes meet the desired standards under the Food Safety Standard Act.

B. Supplementary nutrition under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme:

For preparation of meals and maintenance of its standards and quality, the Supplementary Nutrition (Under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2015, notified under NFSA, provide as under:

i. The meal shall be prepared as per the guidelines, instructions or orders issued by the Central Government from time to time (taking into account the orders or "guidelines issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts), and the provisions of Schedule II of NFSA and any other law for the time being in force.

ii. The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations, with the support of Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) shall ensure the quality of supplementary nutrition with reference to the norms of food safety, as well as food composition.

iii. The Supplementary Nutrition shall conform to the standards laid down under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 to ensure consistent quality and nutritive value of the intervention per serving and it shall also be ensured that the meal is prepared in kitchen having adequate sanitation and safe drinking water to maintain hygienic conditions.

iv. It shall be the responsibility of the concerned Programme Officer and the Child Development Project Officer under the ICDS to ensure the quality of supplementary provision with reference to the norms of food safety as well as food composition.

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v. FNB, in collaboration with the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations, shall carry out periodic checks and test the meal or get it tested through the Government Food Research Laboratory accredited or recognized by any law for the time being in force, so as to ensure that the meal meets with the nutritional standards and quality specified in Schedule II of NFSA.

vi. Similarly, the officers, as authorized by the State Governments or the Union Territory Administrations, shall also conduct surprise checks and draw samples and get them tested through the above laboratories to ensure quality and nutrient value of the meal.

vii. The Food should be tasted by the Anganwadi worker or helper before it is served to the beneficiaries at Anganwadi Centre.

C. Mid Day Meal: The Mid-Day- Meal Rules, 2015, notified under NFSA provides the following with regard to testing of meals by accredited Laboratories:

(i) Hot cooked meal provided to children shall be evaluated and certified by the Government Food Research Laboratory accredited or recognized by law, so as to ensure that the meal meets with the nutritional standards and quality standards and quality specified in Schedule II to NFSA. The Food and Drugs Administration Department of the State may collect samples to ensure the nutritive value and quality of the meals.

(ii) The Food and Drugs Administration Department of the State Governments shall collect the sample at least once in a month from randomly selected schools or centralized kitchen and send such samples for examinations to the laboratories referred to at (i) above.

ANNEXURE - II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 290 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.12.2016 IN LOK SABHA

Fund released to States/UTs for meeting expenditure on intra-State movement & handling of foodgrains and FPS dealers" margin 2015-16

S.No.

States/UTs

Fund released (Amount in lakh)

1

Chandigarh

31.11

2

Dadra & Nagar Haveli

3.79

3

Delhi

35.03

4

Goa

56.40

5

Lakshadweep

13.89

6

Mizoram

31.72

7

Sikkim

89.89

Total

261.83

2016-17

S.No.

States/UTs

Fund released (Amount in crore)

1
Bihar
501.39

2
Assam
124.06

3
Tripura
15.82

4
Karnataka
328.41

5
Maharashtra
593.00

6
Rajasthan
256.34

7
Madhya Pradesh
380.97

Total
2200.00
